

REMARKS

This document is being submitted as a proposed amendment after allowance in accordance with 37 CFR 1.312. The purpose of this proposed Amendment is to correct typographical and grammatical errors and propose modifications to claim language to either clarify the claim scope or provide consistent identity of claim elements throughout the claims. Applicant further proposes the addition of some dependent claims which would permit several already allowed dependent claims to also depend from other allowed claims. Finally, applicant proposes the cancellation of some claims. Applicant believes that this Amendment will not require further prosecution on the merits and all claims are allowable as dictated in the notice of allowance (not received). Claims 15-30 and 32-63 are currently allowed.

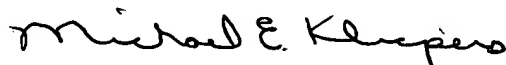
Claim 31 was previously cancelled. Applicant also now cancels claims 18, 44, and 47. Independent claim 15 is amended to provide consistent antecedent basis, clarify claim meaning, and correct grammatical inconsistencies. Independent claims 28, 43 are amended to provide additional clarity of claim meaning. Independent claim 41 is amended to provide consistent antecedent basis, clarify claim meaning, and provide consistent usage for the clause “material, product or supply” throughout the claim. Independent claim 50 is amended to provide consistent usage for the clause “material, product or supply” throughout the claim. Independent claim 54 is amended to provide consistent usage for the clause “material, product or supply” and consistent antecedent reference for “selected regional supplier” throughout the claim. Independent claim 58 is amended to add “publicly accessible” as a descriptor for the contractor/customer ordering program, provide consistent usage for the clause “material, product or supply” and consistent antecedent reference for “selected regional supplier” throughout the claim. Independent claim 61 is amended to add “publicly accessible” as a descriptor for the contractor/customer ordering program and provide consistent usage for the clause “material, product or supply” throughout the claim. Dependent claims 16, 19, 20, 25, 29, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 44, 45, 51, 52, 55 are amended to provide consistent term and antecedent reference with the independent claims from which they depend and clarify claim meaning. Dependent claims 21, 34 are amended to provide proper antecedent basis and also clarify that these claims are directed to a “regional supplier which is part of a national chain.” Dependent claim 23 is amended to provide

additional clarity to the claim element. Dependent claim 26, 39 are amended to include electrical as a construction phase consistent with the Specification. Dependent claims 53, 57, 60 are amended to correct a typographical error changing "assesses" to the proper term "accesses" and provide proper antecedent reference. Dependent claim 63 is amended to correct a typographical error changing "assesses" to the proper term "accesses."

New dependent claims 64-75 are added. New dependent claims 64 and 65 represent variations of the allowed dependent claims 21 and 34, the new claims being directed to regional suppliers associated with a national chain. New dependent claims 66, 74, and 75 are all based on allowed dependent claims 26 and 39 and should be allowable. Finally, new dependent claims 67-73 mirror allowed claim 27 and Applicant wishes to have the allowed claim further depend from other allowed claims.

No new matter is added. The modifications proposed in this Amendment should not require any further prosecution on the merits. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 15-17, 19-30, 32-43, 45-46, and 48-75 are allowable and that the application should be passed to issue. If any matters can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 502274.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael E. Klicpera". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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